

What is claimed is:

1. A method for identifying a compound that modulates the interaction between CARD-8 and caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG, the method comprising:
 - 5 a) contacting CARD-8 and caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG in the presence of a test compound;
 - b) measuring the binding of CARD-8 and caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG in the presence of the test compound;
 - c) identifying the test compound as a compound that modulates the interaction
- 10 between CARD-8 and caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG when the binding of CARD-8 to caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG is increased or decreased in the presence of the test compound compared the binding of CARD-8 to caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG in the absence of the test compound.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein CARD-8 is immobilized on a solid support.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG is immobilized on a solid support.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the test compound is a peptide.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the test compound is a peptide analog.
6. The method of claim 2, wherein CARD-8 is immobilized by binding to an antibody that is bound to the solid support.
- 25 7. The method of claim 3, wherein caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG is immobilized by binding to an antibody that is bound to the solid support.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein CARD-8 is detectably labeled.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG is detectably labeled.
- 20 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising measuring the binding of CARD-8 to caspase-1, pseudo-ICE, or ICEBERG in the absence of the test compound.

11. A method for identifying a compound that modulates an activity of CARD-8,
the method comprising:

5 a) contacting CARD-8 with a test compound; and

 b) determining the effect of the test compound on the activity of CARD-8, to
thereby identify a compound that modulates the activity of CARD-8.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the activity of CARD-8 comprises the
ability to increase or decrease apoptosis.

10 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the activity of CARD-8 comprises the
ability to induce the secretion of IL-1 β .

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the activity of CARD-8 comprises the
ability to induce caspase activation.

15 15. A method of treating a disorder associated with inappropriate apoptosis, the
method comprising modulating the expression or activity of CARD-8.

16. A method of treating a disorder associated with inappropriate inflammation,
the method comprising modulating the expression or activity of CARD-8.

17. A method of treating a disorder associated with inappropriate apoptosis, the
method comprising modulating the expression or activity of CARD-7.